legal aid society **2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

for only

Most Americans don't realize that you can have your home taken away, your children taken away, and you can be a victim of domestic violence but you have no constitutional right to a lawyer to protect you.

Jim Sandman, President Legal Services Corporation

For nearly a century, Legal Aid Society has protected the rights of ordinary Kentuckians when a civil legal problem threatens their home, health, livelihood and family.

Over 177,000 individuals in Legal Aid Society's fifteen county service area live in poverty and qualify for our services. Seventy-one percent (71%) of low-income households experience at least one civil legal problem annually that significantly impacts their lives.

Legal Aid Society is here so that our neighbors don't have to face their legal problems alone. When someone needs an attorney, they have an attorney.

We dedicate the 2017 Annual Report to the thousands of clients we serve each year and the hundreds of donors, volunteers, and partners who make our work possible.



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4,395 total cases closed in 2017



3,969

603 seniors

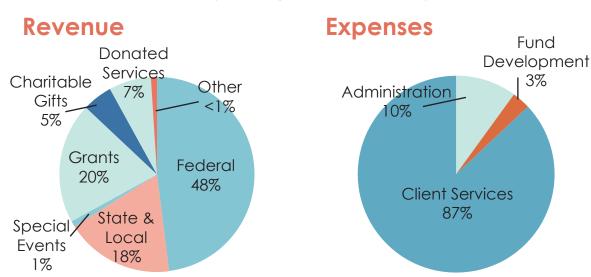
358 veterans

1,532



FINANCIALS

Total Revenue*: \$4,450,871 | Total Expenses*: \$4,599,410 | Total Assets: \$3,787,229



^{*} Legal Aid Society received a one-time grant award in 2016 that is being utilized over five years.



Aid is for our neighbors.

The eviction rate in Louisville is more than double the national average.

Ms. Green, a 71-year-old retired school teacher, was facing an eviction and the prospect of becoming homeless. Ms. Green sought help from Legal Aid Society. Her Legal Aid attorney discovered that Ms. Green's landlord had actually refused to take her rent payments, rather than Ms. Green failing to pay as required. Ms. Green's attorney also discovered that Ms. Green was eligible for a first time home buyer program. Ms. Green's Legal Aid attorney negotiated a settlement that provided for the dismissal of the eviction and a date by which Ms. Green could move out with dignity. Ms. Green is now a homeowner for the first time in her life.

In Jefferson County alone, 15 individuals are evicted every day. Across the country, communities and families are struggling to find and retain affordable housing. The impact of eviction on families with children is devastating and negatively impacts the health, education, and emotional stability of families.

In 2017, Legal Aid helped over 600 households facing eviction. A study conducted by the Boston Bar Association found that nearly twice as many renters were able to avoid eviction with an attorney than without.

To learn more about the eviction crisis and eviction in our community, visit www.evictionlab.org

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Legal Aid is for second chance see

A criminal record can feel like living a life-sentence long after your debt to society is paid.

That's how Chris felt when he came to Legal Aid in January 2017 seeking help expunging his record. In the late 1990's, Chris had written several cold checks out of desperation and had spent the vast majority of the last two decades unable to find quality employment due to his criminal history. Having served jail time and paid restitution, Chris still had few options. He really wanted and needed to work and earn a living. With help from Legal Aid Society, Chris was able to completely expunge his record and is now proudly employed, economically stable, and independent.

In 2017, Legal Aid Society's Economic Stability Unit helped 346 individuals achieve a fresh start and a second chance at a more prosperous and independent future.

Individuals with criminal records face tough barriers to obtaining a job or finding higher paying jobs. In fact, the stigma of a criminal record is enough to discourage more than half of employers from hiring someone.

Legal Aid Society proudly partners with the following organizations to provide holistic employment services to those seeking a fresh start:

- Goodwill Industries of Kentucky
- Louisville Urban League/Reily Re-entry Project
- Kentuckiana Works



Edward S. Bonnie Endowment Fund

The Edward S. Bonnie Endowment Fund was established in 2011 by Edward S. (Ned) and Cornelia (Nina) Bonnie as a resource for annual unrestricted funding to ensure our neighbors living in poverty always have access to civil legal aid. The fund is held at the Community Foundation of Louisville. The following donors have contributed to the fund since that time.

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The Fourteenth Annual Brush, Bottle and Barrel of the Bluegrass was held on April 28, 2017 at the corporate campus of Atria Senior Living. R. James Straus, partner at Frost Brown Todd and long-time Board Member of Legal Aid Society, received the Third Annual Brown-Forman Spirit of Justice Award. Chef Chad Welch of Atria Hospitality provided delicious hors d'oeuvres and a dozen Kentucky wines, bourbons and beers provided tastings of their products. Over \$50,000 was raised to support the mission of the Legal Aid Society.

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